AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) A cushion for helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, said cushion comprising:

a unitary preformed U-shaped structure having a base portion and two legs extending equidistant from said base portion, said two legs having axial ends,

each of said two legs having an pre-formed elbow shaped bend, and

when placed into the car seat, said base portion of said cushion being located at a top of the back surface and said axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface,

said cushion reducing the surface area for an infant to be placed in the car seat to occupy in order to help secure the infant in the car seat and to minimize slouching of the infant in the car seat,

~~The cushion according to claim 5~~ wherein each leg of said cushion includes a portion which is reduced in thickness

said reduced thickness portions being located relative to a child adapted to be positioned adjacent said cushion and along a distance approximately between the child's temples and chin.

Claims 12-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended) A cushion for helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, said cushion comprising:

a unitary preformed U-shaped structure having a base portion and two legs extending equidistant from said base portion, said two legs having axial ends,

when placed into the car seat, said base portion of said cushion being located at a top of the back surface and said axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface, and

one or both of said axial ends containing an audible sound producing device,

said cushion reducing the surface area for an

infant to be placed in the car seat to occupy in order to help secure the infant in the car seat and to minimize slouching of the infant in the car seat,

~~The cushion according to claim 13~~ wherein the music box is self-activating in response to an impact force exceeding a predetermined impact force threshold.

Claims 16-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (original) A cushion for helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, said cushion comprising:

a unitary preformed U-shaped structure having a base portion and two legs extending equidistant from said base portion, said two legs having axial ends,

when placed into the car seat, said base portion of said cushion being located at a top of the back surface and said axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface, and

at least a portion of a stuffed animal being attached to one or both of said axial ends,

said cushion reducing the surface area for an infant to be placed in the car seat to occupy in order to help secure the infant in the car seat and to minimize slouching of the infant in the car seat.

Claim 23 (original) The cushion according to claim 22 wherein at least a portion of the stuffed animal is attached to the axial ends of the cushion by a fastener selected from the group comprising a button, a snap connection, and VELCRO™.

Claims 24-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended) A method of helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the infant into the car seat, and

placing a first cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat, said tube-shaped structure having an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion where said two legs are joined together, said base portion being located at the top of the back surface of the car seat and the two axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface of the car seat, said cushion legs engaging the side walls of the car seat,

placing a second cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the first cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the second cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion located next to the base portion of the first cushion and the two axial ends of the legs of the second cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion spaced from the free edge of the seat surface of the car seat,

placing a third cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the second cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the third cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and base portion located next to the base portion of the second

cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion and not next to the legs of the second cushion,

the infant being surrounded by and engaging the third cushion base portion and legs to reduce the surface area of the car seat for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing slouching of the infant in the car seat,

~~The method according to claim 25~~ wherein the second cushion has a length which is shorter than the first cushion.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A method of helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the infant into the car seat, and

placing a first cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat, said tube-shaped structure having an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion where said two legs are joined together, said base portion being located at the top of the back surface of the car seat and the two axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface of the car seat, said cushion legs engaging the side walls of the car seat,

placing a second cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the first cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the second cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base

and the two axial ends of the legs of the second cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion spaced from the free edge of the seat surface of the car seat,

placing a third cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the second cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the third cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and base portion located next to the base portion of the second cushion and the two axial ends of the legs of the third cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion and not next to the legs of the second cushion,

the infant being surrounded by and engaging the third cushion base portion and legs to reduce the surface area of the car seat for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing slouching of the infant in the car seat,

~~The method according to claim 25~~ wherein the third cushion has a length which is longer than the second cushion but is shorter than the first cushion.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The method according to claim 26 ~~25~~, including the step of:

preceding the step of placing the first cushion into the car seat, bending the first cushion into an upside down U-shape at a location which is at approximately half of a total length of the first cushion.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The method according to claim 26 ~~25~~, including the step of:

preceding the step of placing the second cushion into the car seat, bending the second cushion into an upside down U-shape at a location which is at approximately half of a total length of the second cushion.

Claim 30 (currently amended) A method of helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the infant into the car seat, and

placing a first cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat, said tube-shaped structure having an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion where said two legs are joined together, said base portion being located at the top of the back surface of the car seat and the two axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface of the car seat, said cushion legs engaging the side walls of the car seat,

placing a second cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the first cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the second cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion located next to the base portion of the first cushion and the two axial ends of the legs of the second cushion being

located next to the legs of the first cushion spaced from the free edge of the seat surface of the car seat,

placing a third cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the second cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the third cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and base portion located next to the base portion of the second cushion and the two axial ends of the legs of the third cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion and not next to the legs of the second cushion,

the infant being surrounded by and engaging the third cushion base portion and legs to reduce the surface area of the car seat for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing slouching of the infant in the car seat, and

~~The method according to claim 25, including the step of:~~

preceding the step of placing the third cushion into the car seat, bending the third cushion into an upside down U-shape at a location which is at approximately half of a total length of the third cushion.

Claim 31 (currently amended) The method according to claim 30 ~~25~~ wherein one the first, second and third cushions are manufactured preformed into the U-shaped tube structure.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The method according to claim 30 ~~25~~ wherein the first, second and third cushions are each resilient structures made of a textile material selected

cotton/polyester blend filled with a substance chosen from the group consisting of batting, foam, gel, water and air.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The method according to claim 30 ~~25~~ wherein the first, second and third cushions are each made of a cushioning media selected from the group consisting of a flame retardant foam rubber and foam vinyl covered with a suitable washable skin selected from the group consisting of a hypoallergenic plastic, nylon and polyurethane.

Claim 34 (original) A cushion for helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, said cushion comprising:

a unitary preformed U-shaped structure having a base portion and two legs extending equidistant from said base portion, said two legs having axial ends,

each of said two legs having a portion which is reduced in thickness relative to the thickness of the remainder of said cushion, said reduced thickness portions being located relative to a child adapted to be positioned adjacent said cushion and along a distance approximately between the child's temples and chin, and

when placed into the car seat, said base portion of said cushion being located at a top of the back surface and said

axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface,

said cushion reducing the surface area for an infant to be placed in the car seat to occupy in order to help secure the infant in the car seat and to minimize slouching of the infant in the car seat.